Michael Murray

I first came to BNL as a graduate student in the late 80's, cleaning uranium in what became the RHIC ring. I went to lots of seminars that talked about some crazy future project called RHIC. I became captivated by the idea of RHIC, of really testing the limits of QCD and finding out what happened in the early universe. After working on the CERN heavy ion program I joined the BRAHMS experiment and took responsibility for the construction of the Zero Degree Calorimeters. I have been completely surprised by the richness of the physics found at RHIC. I believe this arises from having a great machine, four very different experiments and a very vibrant community.

I first came to the US as a gradate student at the University of Pittsburgh and was then did post-docs at Los Alamos and Texas A&M. On the way I fell in love, started a family and became a citizen. I am now teaching at the University of Kansas. Steve Sanders and I have 3 post-docs working on BRAHMS, one on CMS heavy ions and several graduate and undergraduate students. Thus I have seen Brookhaven from the point of few of student, post-doc and professor.

I have benefited greatly from the BNL community and am glad to serve in any way I could. I have already served three years on the UEC and believe its most important function is to listen to users and to be a advocate for them. Of course the wonderful staff of the users office are very dedicated to all "their" scientists and one of the best things about this job is working with the users office. The UEC in collaboration with the users office has done important work in improving the quality of life at BNL, particularly for young people and scientists from outside the US.

For the last six years Brookhaven has held center stage for heavy ion physics but will soon be joined in the limelight by the Large Hadron Collidor. I am current project leader of the Zero Degree Calorimeter for CMS but am still deeply interested in RHIC physics. Having two collidors working on heavy ion physics will assure the intellectual vitality of the field. The UEC has an important role to play in conveying this excitement to congress and the public. It is also vital that the intellectual life of the laboratory continue to flourish. This means that users must be well supported as the laboratory transitions into a QCD lab. If elected I would be honored to work with the current UEC members.